

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 2, 20 and 35-37 without prejudice, AMEND claims 1, 3-11, 19, 21-29 and 32-34, and ADD new claims 38 and 39 in accordance with the following:

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1. (Currently Amended) A transmission characteristic equalizing system, comprising:  
at least one optical tunable filter having a variable transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic and placed along an optical transmission path between a transmitting station and a receiving station in a wavelength division multiplexing optical communication system;  
a transmission characteristic measurement unit measuring transmission characteristics of optical signals of different wavelengths transmitted over the optical transmission path; and  
a transmission characteristic control unit, ~~on the basis of the~~ based on measurements made by the transmission characteristic measurement unit, controlling amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter to thereby equalize the transmission characteristics for the optical signals, wherein the transmission characteristic control unit calculates an optimum allocation between a controlled variable of the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station and a controlled amount of the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter and controls the amounts of pre-emphasis and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic according to the optimum allocation to thereby equalize and optimize the transmission characteristics.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein the transmission characteristic control unit first controls only the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter to temporarily equalize the transmission characteristics for the optical signals, then calculates the optimum allocation with reference to the transmission

factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter at thea time of ~~the~~ temporal equalization of the transmission characteristics, and controls both the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter and the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station according to the optimum allocation of control to equalize and optimize the transmission characteristics.

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 3, wherein the transmission characteristic measurement unit measures first and second transmission characteristic values having a correlation with each other as the transmission characteristics, and the transmission characteristic control unit first controls only the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter to equalize the first transmission characteristic values and then temporarily equalize the second transmission characteristic values with reference to the equalized first transmission characteristic values, then calculates the optimum allocation with reference to the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter at thea time of temporary equalization of the second transmission characteristic values, and controls ~~both~~ the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter and the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station according to the optimum allocation to thereby equalize the second transmission characteristic values.

5. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 4, wherein the process of controlling only the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter to temporarily equalize the second transmission characteristic values is performed by reducing thea transmission factor of the optical tunable filter for each wavelength to decrease the first transmission characteristic values and thereby lower the second transmission characteristic values to a given target value, restoring the transmission factor of the optical tunable filter to its an original value thereof to restore the first transmission characteristic values to ~~their~~ initial values thereof, determining ~~the~~ widths of variations of the first transmission characteristic values at that timepoint, determining ~~thean~~ average of the widths of variations of the first transmission characteristic values over all wavelengths, and adjusting the transmission factor of the optical tunable filter for each wavelength to vary each of the first transmission characteristic values by thea difference between the average and thea corresponding width of variation.

6. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 4, wherein the process of calculating the optimum allocation is performed ~~by~~, with the transmission factors of the optical tunable filter to which reference is made assumed as 100%, by controlling the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station to equalize the second transmission characteristic values each time the transmission factors of the optical tunable filter are reduced by a percentage, calculating the average of the equalized second transmission characteristic values over all wavelengths each time the transmission factors of the optical tunable filter are reduced by the percentage, and using the percentage of a reduction in the transmission factors when the average is a maximum as the optimum allocation.

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 6, wherein the process of controlling the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station to equalize the second transmission characteristic values is performed by controlling the amounts of pre-emphasis to equalize the first transmission characteristic values, adjusting the amounts of pre-emphasis for each wavelength to decrease the first transmission characteristic values and thereby temporarily lower the second transmission characteristic values to a given target value, restoring the amounts of pre-emphasis to ~~their~~ original values thereof to restore the first transmission characteristic values to ~~their~~ initial values thereof, determining ~~the~~ widths of variations of the first transmission characteristic values at that timepoint, determining ~~thean~~ thean average of the widths of variations of the first transmission characteristic values for all wavelengths, and adjusting the amount of pre-emphasis for each wavelength to vary each of the first transmission characteristic values by ~~thea~~ difference between the average and ~~thea~~ corresponding width of variation.

8. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 4, wherein the transmission characteristic control unit calculates the optimum allocation prior to a start of thean operation of the communication system and controls the amounts of pre-emphasis and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic according to the optimum allocation during the operation of the communication system to thereby equalize and optimize the transmission characteristics.

9. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 8, wherein the process of controlling the amounts of pre-emphasis and the transmission factor versus wavelength

characteristic according to the optimum allocation during the operation of the communication system is performed by adjusting the amount of pre-emphasis or ~~the~~a transmission factor for each wavelength to decrease the first transmission characteristic values and thereby temporarily lower the second transmission characteristic values to a given target value, restoring the amount of pre-emphasis or the transmission factor to ~~their~~ original values thereof to restore the first transmission characteristic values to ~~their~~ initial values thereof, determining ~~the~~ widths of variations of the first transmission characteristic values at that ~~time~~point, determining ~~the~~an average of the widths of variations of the first transmission characteristic values over all wavelengths, adjusting the transmission factor for each wavelength to vary the first transmission characteristic values by an amount corresponding to the optimum allocation, and adjusting the amount of pre-emphasis for each wavelength to further vary the first transmission characteristic values by an amount corresponding to the optimum allocation.

10. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 9, wherein, assuming ~~the~~a ratio representing the optimum allocation between a controlled variable of the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic and ~~a~~the controlled variable of the amounts of pre-emphasis to be  $X$  to  $1 - X$ , a variation in the first transmission characteristic values by control of the wavelength characteristic according to the optimum allocation is ~~the~~a product of ~~the~~a difference and  $X$ , and ~~a~~the variation in the first transmission characteristic values by control of the amounts of pre-emphasis according to the optimum allocation is ~~the~~a product of the difference and  $1 - X$ .

11. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 9, wherein the given target value is ~~the~~a minimum value of the second transmission characteristic values specified by the communication system.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the first transmission characteristic values are optical signal to noise ratios (OSNR), and the second transmission characteristic values are Q factors.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the first transmission characteristic values are optical signal to noise ratios (OSNR), and the second transmission characteristic values are bit error rates (BER).

14. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission characteristic measurement unit is provided in the receiving station.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission characteristic control unit is provided in the receiving station and the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter are controlled by the receiving station.

16. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission characteristic control unit is provided in the transmitting station and the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter are controlled by the transmitting station.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station are controlled via one of an overhead signal, a control signal superimposed on a main signal amplitude, and a dedicated control signal.

18. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter is controlled via one of an overhead signal, a control signal superimposed on a main signal amplitude, and a dedicated control signal.

19. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for~~of equalizing transmission characteristics for optical signals, comprising:

(a)-placing at least one optical tunable filter having a variable transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic along an optical transmission path between a transmitting station and a receiving station in a wavelength division multiplexing optical communication system;

(b)-measuring transmission characteristics of optical signals of different wavelengths transmitted over the optical transmission path; and

(c)-controlling, ~~on the basis of the~~based on measurements of the transmission characteristics, ~~the~~ amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter to thereby equalize the

transmission characteristics for the optical signals, in the controlling based on the measurements of the transmission characteristics operation, calculating an optimum allocation between a controlled variable of the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station and a controlled amount of the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter and controlling the amounts of pre-emphasis and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic according to the optimum allocation to thereby equalize and optimize the transmission characteristics..

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20~~19~~, wherein, in the controlling based on the measurements of the transmission characteristics operation ~~step (e)~~, only the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter is controlled to temporarily equalize the transmission characteristics for the optical signals, then the optimum allocation is calculated with reference to the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter at ~~the~~ a time of temporary equalization of the transmission characteristics, and ~~both~~ the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter and the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station are controlled according to the optimum allocation of control.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein, in the measuring of transmission characteristics of optical signals operation ~~step (b)~~, first and second transmission characteristic values having a correlation with each other are measured as the transmission characteristics, and, in the controlling based on the measurements of the transmission characteristics operation ~~step (e)~~, only the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter is controlled to equalize the first transmission characteristic values and then temporarily equalize the second transmission characteristic values with reference to the equalized first transmission characteristic values, then the optimum allocation is calculated with reference to the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter at ~~the~~ a time of temporary equalization of the second transmission characteristic values, and ~~both~~ the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter and the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station are controlled according to the optimum

allocation to thereby equalize the second transmission characteristic values.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein, the process in the controlling based on the measurements of the transmission characteristics operation step (e) of the controlling only the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter to temporarily equalize the second transmission characteristic values is performed by reducing ~~the~~a transmission factor of the optical tunable filter for each wavelength to decrease the first transmission characteristic values and thereby lower the second transmission characteristic values to a given target value, restoring the transmission factor of the optical tunable filter to ~~its~~an original value thereof to restore the first transmission characteristic values to ~~their~~ initial values thereof, determining ~~the~~ widths of variations of the first transmission characteristic values at that ~~time~~point, determining ~~the~~an average of the widths of variations of the first transmission characteristic values over all wavelengths, and adjusting the transmission factor of the optical tunable filter for each wavelength to vary each of the first transmission characteristic values by ~~the~~a difference between the average and ~~the~~a corresponding width of variation.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein the process in the controlling based on the measurements of the transmission characteristics operation step (e) of calculating the optimum allocation is performed ~~by~~, with the transmission factors of the optical tunable filter to which reference is made assumed as 100%, by controlling the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station to equalize the second transmission characteristic values each time the transmission factors of the optical tunable filter are reduced by a percentage, calculating the average of the equalized second transmission characteristic values over all wavelengths each time the transmission factors of the optical tunable filter are reduced by the percentage, and using the percentage of a reduction in the transmission factors when the average is a maximum as the optimum allocation.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein the process in the controlling based on the measurements of the transmission characteristics operation~~step (e)~~ of controlling the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station to equalize the second transmission characteristic values is performed by controlling the amounts of pre-emphasis to

equalize the first transmission characteristic values, adjusting the amounts of pre-emphasis for each wavelengths to decrease the first transmission characteristic values and thereby temporarily lower the second transmission characteristic values to a given target value, restoring the amounts of pre-emphasis to ~~their~~ original values thereof to restore the first transmission characteristic values to ~~their~~ initial values thereof, determining ~~the~~ widths of variations of the first transmission characteristic values at that timepoint, determining ~~thean~~ average of the widths of variations of the first transmission characteristic values for all wavelengths, and adjusting the amount of pre-emphasis for each wavelength to vary each of the first transmission characteristic values by ~~thea~~ difference between the average and ~~thea~~ corresponding width of variation.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein, in the controlling based on the measurements of the transmission characteristics operation step (c), the optimum allocation is calculated prior to ~~thea~~ start of ~~thean~~ operation of the communication system and the amounts of pre-emphasis and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic are controlled according to the optimum allocation during the operation of the communication system to thereby equalize and optimize the transmission characteristics.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein the process in the controlling based on the measurements of the transmission characteristics operation step (c) of controlling the amounts of pre-emphasis and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic according to the optimum allocation during the operation of the communication system is performed by adjusting the amount of pre-emphasis or ~~thea~~ transmission factor for each wavelength to decrease the first transmission characteristic values and thereby temporarily lower the second transmission characteristic values to a given target value, restoring the amount of pre-emphasis or the transmission factor to ~~their~~ original values thereof to restore the first transmission characteristic values to ~~their~~ initial values thereof, determining ~~the~~ widths of variations of the first transmission characteristic values at that timepoint, determining ~~thean~~ average of the widths of variations of the first transmission characteristic values over all wavelengths, adjusting the transmission factor for each wavelength to vary the first transmission characteristic values by an amount corresponding to the optimum allocation, and adjusting the amount of pre-emphasis for each wavelength to further vary the first transmission characteristic values by an amount corresponding to the optimum allocation.



28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein, assuming ~~the~~ ratio representing the optimum allocation between a controlled variable of the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic and ~~a~~the controlled variable of the amounts of pre-emphasis to be  $X$  to  $1 - X$ , a variation in the first transmission characteristic values by control of the wavelength characteristic according to the optimum allocation is ~~the~~a product of ~~the~~a difference and  $X$ , and ~~a~~the variation in the first transmission characteristic values by control of the amounts of pre-emphasis according to the optimum allocation is ~~the~~a product of the difference and  $1 - X$ .

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein the given target value is ~~the~~a minimum value of the second transmission characteristic values specified by the communication system.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the first transmission characteristic values are optical signal to noise ratios (OSNR), and the second transmission characteristic values are Q factors.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the first transmission characteristic values are optical signal to noise ratios (OSNR), and the second transmission characteristic values are bit error rates (BER).

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the measurements in the measuring of transmission characteristics of optical signals operation~~step (b)~~ are made by the receiving station.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein control in the controlling based on the measurements of the transmission characteristics operation~~step (c)~~ of the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter is performed by the receiving station.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein control in the

controlling based on the measurements of the transmission characteristics operation~~step (e)~~ of the amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter is performed by the transmitting station.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) A transmission characteristic equalizing system, comprising:  
an optical tunable filter having a variable transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic and placed along an optical transmission path between a transmitting station and a receiving station in a wavelength division multiplexing optical communication system;  
a transmission characteristic measurement unit to measure transmission characteristics of optical signals of different wavelengths transmitted over the optical transmission path; and  
a transmission characteristic control unit to match the transmission characteristics for the optical signals according to measurements from the transmission characteristic measurement unit, the transmission characteristic control unit calculating an optimum allocation between a controlled variable of amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station and a controlled amount of a transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter and controlling the amounts of pre-emphasis and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic according to the optimum allocation.

39. (New) A method of equalizing transmission characteristics for optical signals, comprising:

placing an optical tunable filter having a variable transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic along an optical transmission path between a transmitting station and a receiving station in a wavelength division multiplexing optical communication system;

measuring transmission characteristics of optical signals of different wavelengths transmitted over the optical transmission path; and

matching the transmission characteristics for the optical signals based on measurements

of transmission characteristics, by calculating an optimum allocation between a controlled variable of amounts of pre-emphasis in the transmitting station and a controlled amount of a transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic of the optical tunable filter and by controlling the amounts of pre-emphasis and the transmission factor versus wavelength characteristic according to the optimum allocation.

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